

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONROV 05803 081840Z

73

ACTION EB-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ARA-10 EUR-10 EA-07 NEA-06 IO-03 ISO-00

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 CG-00 COA-01 DLOS-03 SWF-01 FEA-01 AEC-05

AID-05 CEA-01 CIEP-01 FPC-01 H-01 INT-01 L-02 NSC-07

OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 SCI-03 SP-02 SS-14 STR-01 TRSE-00

FRB-01 DRC-01 /113 W

----- 042255

R 081624Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3448

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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PAGE 02 MONROV 05803 081840Z

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN
USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, UNCTAD, UN, LI

SUBJECT: CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LINER CONFERENCES

1. SUMMARY: GOL SHARES CONCERN OF USG OVER POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECTS CONVENTION ON CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LINER CONFERENCES MIGHT HAVE UPON WORLD'S OCEAN-BORNE TRADE IF IT PERMITTED TO TAKE EFFECT. HOWEVER, THIS DANGER NOT VIEWED AS IMMEDIATE, AND CONSIDERED RELATIVELY MINOR WHEN COMPARED TO THREAT POSED TO LIBERIAN SHIPPING BY PROPOSED U.S. ENERGY TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ACT OF 1974. DRY-CARGO VESSELS PLAY MINOR AND DECLINING ROLE IN LIBERIAN SHIP REGISTRY, AND LESS THAN THREE PER CENT OF TOTAL REGISTERED TONNAGE PARTICIPATES DIRECTLY IN CONFERENCES. OIL TANKERS ARE MAJOR AND MOST RAPIDLY GROWING ELEMENT IN LIBERIAN FLEET, AND WOULD BEAR DIRECT BRUNT OF PROPOSED U.S. RESTRICTIVE MEASURES. NEVERTHELESS, GOL NOT EAGER SEE CONVENTION ON CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LINER CONFERENCES IMPLEMENTED, AND PLANS TAKE NO IMMEDIATE ACTION WITH REGARD TO SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION. FINAL DECISION ON MATTER WILL DEPEND UPON EXTENT OF PRESSURE BROUGHT TO BEAR UPON GOL BY MEMBERS ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY AND NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. PRINCIPLE OF OAU AND NAC UNITY APPARENTLY HAS BECOME KEYSTONE OF LIBERIAN FOREIGN POLICY, AND GOL DOES NOT FEEL THAT CONVENTION SUFFICIENTLY DAMAGING TO LIBERIAN INTERESTS TO WARRANT OPEN BREACH OF THIS UNITY. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 03 MONROV 05803 081840Z

2. ACTING UPON DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS (STATE 164561 AND 190368), AND FOLLOWING PLAN OF ACTION WORKED OUT WITH INTRUSCO (MONROVIA 5394), ECON CONSELOR CALLED UPON GOL DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF MARITIME AFFAIRS GERALD COOPER ON OCTOBER 4, AND MADE LOW-KEY PRESENTATION OF USG VIEWS ON CONVENTION ON CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LINER CONFERENCES. COOPER (WHO ATTENDED GENEVA CONFERENCE ON CODE LAST APRIL) WAS OPEN AND FRIENDLY, AND PROVED MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE ON SUBJECT. HE ADMITTED THAT CODE POSES

PROBLEMS FOR GOL, BUT NOTED THAT EVEN IF IT GOES INTO EFFECT IF WOULD REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE TIME BEFORE ITS MORE ONEROUS ASPECTS COULD BE FULLY IMPLEMENTED. SINCE CONVENTION CONTAINS PROVISION FOR REVIEW AFTER FIVE YEARS, IT POSSIBLE THAT CORRECTIVE ACTION COULD BE TAKEN AT THAT TIME. MOREOVER, DRY-CARGO VESSELS PLAY ONLY MINOR AND DECLINING ROLE IN LIBERIA SHIP REGISTRY, AND LESS THAN THREE PER CENT OF TOTAL REGISTERED TONNAGE NOW PARTICIPATES DIRECTLY IN CONFERENCES. COOPER SAID THAT MOST OF THESE VESSELS WERE GREEK AND THAT THEY QTE CAUSE MORE TROUBLE THAN THEY ARE WORTH UNQTE.

3. COOPER ALSO SHED SOME INTERESTING LIGHT ON LIBERIA'S ROLE AT APRIL CONFERENCE. HE SAID THAT MEETING QUICKLY CHANGED FROM TECHNICAL TO POLITICAL GATHERING, AND THAT THIS MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR LIBERIA TO TAKE ACTIVE PART. POINTING OUT THAT LIBERIA IS ONLY MEMBER ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY WITH ANY SUBSTANTIAL MERCHANT VESSEL REGISTRY, AND ONE OF FEW SUCH IN NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE, HE CLAIMED THAT FOR GOL TO SPEAK OUT AGAINST CONVENTION WOULD HAVE BEEN TO RISK ACCUSATIONS THAT IT HAD ABANDONED ITS OAU AND NAC BROTHERS. FOR THIS REASON GOL REMAINED SILENT DURING CONFERENCE AND JOINED VOTE IN FAVOR OF CONVENTION.

4. LOOKING AHEAD, COOPER AGREED THAT CONVENTION NOT IN BEST INTERESTS OF LIBERIA, EXPRESSED VAGUE HOPE THAT IT MIGHT NOT TAKE EFFECT, AND SAID THAT GOL PLANS TKAES NO ACTION WITH REGARD TO SIGNATURE/RATIFICATION IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE. HOWEVER, HE STATED OPENLY THAT FINAL GOL POSITION WILL DEPEND UPON EXTENT OF PRESSURE BROUGHT TO BEAR BY MEMBER COUNTRIES OF OAU AND NAC. HE CLAIMED THAT ETHIOPIA, NIGERIA AND GHANA STRONGLY FAVOR THE CONVENTION AS DO NORTH AFRICAN COUNTRIES, BUT SAID THAT IVORY COAST SUPPORT FOR CONVENTION WEAKENING AND ZAIRE OPPOSED. IF OAU AND/OR NAC FORMALLY DECIDE IN FAVOR OF CONVENTION AND IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 MONROV 05803 081840Z

BECOMES QUESTION OF UNITY, LIBERIA WILL SIGN AND RATIFY.

5. DURING COURSE OF DISCUSSION, COOPER POINTED OUT SEVERAL TIMES THAT WHILE CONVENTION TROUBLING TO GOL, IT OF RELATIVELY MINOR IMPORTANCE WHEN COMPARED TO THREAT POSED BY PROPOSED U.S. ENERGY TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ACT OF 1974. HE NOTED INCONSISTENCY OUR POSITION IN OPPOSING CARGO-SHARING IN LINER CONFERENCES WHILE HTRREATENING TO IMPOSE IT IN CASE OUR OWN PETROLEUM IMPORTS, AND ASSERTED THAT ACT, IF PASSED, COULD LEAD TO SIMILAR ACTION BY OTHER COUNTRIES. HE EXPRESSED GRAVE FEAR THAT PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES MIGHT FOLLOW OUR LEAD AND RESERVE SET PERCENTAGES OF THEIR EXPORTS FOR THEIR OWN FLEETS. SINCE OIL TANKERS ARE MAJOR AND MOST RAPIDLY GROWING ELEMENT IN LIBERIAN MERCHANT FLEET, COOPER SAID QTE WE CANNOT LIVE WITH ENERGY TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ACT UNQTE. ECON

CONSELOR NOTED THAT EXECUTIVE BRANCH DID NOT FAVOR ACT AND HAD
OPPOSED ITS PASSAGE. HOWEVER, HE AVOIDED HOLDING OUT ANY HOPE
OF VETO.
BEAN

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Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
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